Course Overview for PoCS

Last updated: 2020/09/26, 14:13:25 EDT

Principles of Complex Systems, Vol. 1 | @pocsvox CSYS/MATH 300, Fall, 2020

Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds | @peterdodds

Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center Vermont Advanced Computing Core | University of Vermont























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On Instagram at pratchett the cat

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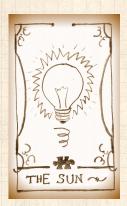
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Describe | Explain | Create | Share | Ethos: Play











Diverse research and teaching portfolio (> 400 papers in 2010–2015).

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Major support:

MassMutual Center for Excellence in Complex Systems and Data Science vermontcomplexsystems.org/partner/MMCOE/

University of Vermont-Google Open-Source Complex Ecosystems And Networks (OCEAN) vermontcomplexsystems.org/partner/OCEAN/ PoCS, Vol. 1 What's the John Dory? 8 of 59

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Vermont Complex Systems Center—Misfit toys:



Peter Dodds, Math/Stats



Josh Bongard, CS



Chris Danforth, Math/Stats



Maggie Eppstein, CS



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References



Juniper Lovato, Education



Garavan, Neuro, Psychiatry



Jane Adams, Digital Artist



Safwan Wshah, CS



Jim Bagrow, Math/Stats



Paul Hines, EE



Brian Tivnan, MITRE



Puck Rombach, Math/Stats



Laurent Hébert-Dufresne, CS



We're interested in many things:

- Sociotechnical systems
- Social Contagion and Influence
- Happiness and Well-being
- Language and Stories
- 🙈 Social unrest
- Conflict
- Robotics
- Artificial Intelligence

- Complex Networks
- Climate
- გ Biology
- & Ecology
- Geomorphology
- Space
- Complex Fluids
- (Smart) Power Grids
- Critical infrastructure
- Defense

- Public Policy
- Health and Medicine
- Brainz Brains
- Neuroscience
- Food systems
- Epidemiology
- Pandemics
- Organizations
 - Economics
- Wealth inequality
- 🗞 Financial Systems

Leveling up—Scaffolded educational mission:

- Data Science Undergrad.
- Graduate Certificate in Complex Systems and Data Science
- Fall, 2015–: MS in Complex Systems and Data Science
- Fall, 2018-: PhD in The
 Study of Interesting Things
 Complex Systems and
 Data Science



All the words: http://vermontcomplexsystems.org ♂.

Graduate Certificate in Complex Systems (and Data Science):

- Principles of Complex Systems is one of three core requirements for UVM's five course Certificate of Graduate Study in Complex Systems .
- Prof. Laurent Hebert-Dufresne's "Modelling Complex Systems" (CSYS/CS 302).
- Prof. Jim Bagrow's "Data Science I" (STAT 287)
- The Sequel to PoCS: "Complex Networks" (CSYS/MATH 303).
- In fact: Principles of Complex Systems Vols. 1 and 2

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Referenc



Science = Area of study + Instruments of study



Stars and Telescopes

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study



Stars and Telescopes = Astronomy

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study



Stars and Telescopes = Astronomy



Rocks and Hammers

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study



Stars and Telescopes = Astronomy

Rocks and Hammers = Geology

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study



Stars and Telescopes = Astronomy



Rocks and Hammers = Geology



Water and Partial Differential Equations

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study

- Stars and Telescopes = Astronomy
- Rocks and Hammers = Geology
- Water and Partial Differential Equations = Fluid Dynamics

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study

- Stars and Telescopes = Astronomy
- Rocks and Hammers = Geology
- Water and Partial Differential Equations = Fluid Dynamics
- Brains and Giant Imaging Machines

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study

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- Rocks and Hammers = Geology
- Water and Partial Differential Equations = Fluid Dynamics
- Brains and Giant Imaging Machines = Neuroscience

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study

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- Water and Partial Differential Equations = Fluid Dynamics
- Brains and Giant Imaging Machines = Neuroscience
- People and Deception

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study

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- People and Deception = Social Psychology

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study

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- Water and Partial Differential Equations = Fluid Dynamics
- Brains and Giant Imaging Machines = Neuroscience
- People and Deception = Social Psychology
- Mathematics and Mathematics

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study

- Stars and Telescopes = Astronomy
- Rocks and Hammers = Geology
- Water and Partial Differential Equations = Fluid Dynamics
- Brains and Giant Imaging Machines = Neuroscience
- People and Deception = Social Psychology
- Mathematics and Mathematics = Pure mathematics

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study

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- People and Deception = Social Psychology
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- Mind and Mind

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Science = Area of study + Instruments of study

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- People and Deception = Social Psychology
- Mathematics and Mathematics = Pure mathematics
- Mind and Mind = Psychotherapy, Insight meditation, ...

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Framing (funfully):

Science = Area of study + Instruments of study

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- Complex Systems + Data Science

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- People and Deception = Social Psychology
- Mathematics and Mathematics = Pure mathematics
- Mind and Mind = Psychotherapy, Insight meditation, ...
- Complex Systems + Data Science = Postdisciplinary Systems Science

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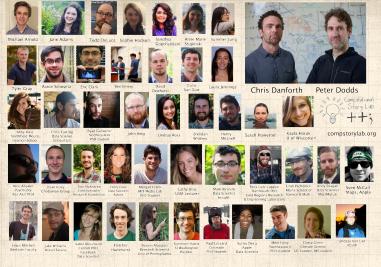
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Funding: NSF, NIH, NIDA, NASA, MITRE, James S. McDonnell Foundation, ONR, DARPA, MassMutual, Google, Computer Associates; [YOUR WONDERFUL FUNDING AGENCY HERE]

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Adjacent: Strava Story Lab team

Outside

by Rowan Jacobsen, August 2017. (Reprinted in UVM Quarterly, 2018.)



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Courses:







- CSYS/MATH 300: Principles of Complex Systems (@pocsvox ☑)
- SCSYS/MATH 303: Complex Networks (@networksvox)
- MATH 124/122: Matrixology (Linear Algebra) (@matrixologyvox and @svdthematrices (2))
- MATH 237: Numerical Analysis (@MachEps237 ☑)
- MATH 266: Chaos, fractals & dynamical systems (@NonperiodicFlow)
- MATH 330: Ordinary Differential Equations (@dallthethingsdt)

Courses act as research incubators and have helped generate many papers

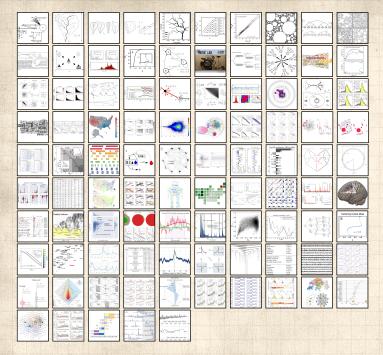
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Basics:

- 🙈 Instructor: Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds
- Lecture room and meeting times: Online, To be sorted out
- Office: (in theory) Innovation, fourth floor
- 🙈 email: peter.dodds@uvm.edu
- Course Website:
 http://www.uvm.edu/pdodds/teaching/courses/2020-08UVM-300
- Course Twitter handle: @pocsvox
- Course hashtag: #FallPoCSVol12020

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Potential paper products:



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Potential paper products:

The Syllabus ☑ and a Poster ☑.

Office hours:

Tuesdays, 12 to 12:50 pm; Wednesdays, 1:15 pm to 2:05 pm; Thursdays, 12 to 12:50 pm; all scheduled on Teams, Innovation, fourth floor

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Three versions (all in pdf):

- 1. Presentation,
- 2. Flat Presentation,
- 3. Handout (3x2 slides per page).

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More super exciting details:

🙈 We use Open Sans and make math look good:

\setmainfont[Ligatures=TeX]{Open Sans}
\setsansfont[Ligatures=TeX]{Open Sans}
\usefonttheme[onlymath]{serif}

- Still working towards putting the course on Github/Gitlab
- And finishing writing the books ...

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This is Season 15 of Principles of Complex Systems, Vol. 1.

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This is Season 15 of Principles of Complex Systems, Vol. 1.

Lectures will be called Episodes.

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Tarot Card



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- All lectures are bottle episodes .

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Wonderful foundational support for PoCS and CoNKS CocoNuTs has come from the NSF:

- "CAREER: Explorations of Complex Social and Psychological Phenomena through Multiscale Online Sociological Experiments, Empirical Studies, and Theoretical Models." 2009–2015.
- SES Division of Social and Economic Sciences SBE Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences

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- Abstract is here ☑.

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Microsoft Teams + Slack

Teams = main place for discussions about all things PoCS including assignments and projects.

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Projects







Microsoft Teams + Slack

Teams = main place for discussions about all things PoCS including assignments and projects.

Slack = main place for students and faculty in Complex Systems and Data Science to talk about everything.

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Projects







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- Very good: Install Microsoft and Slack apps on laptops, tablets, phone, cats, dogs. Nothing will go wrong.

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Projects References







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- Very good: Install Microsoft and Slack apps on laptops, tablets, phone, cats, dogs. Nothing will go wrong.
- Everyone will behave wonderfully.



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Grading breakdown:

Assignments (75%)—All assignments will be of equal weight and there will be 10 ± 1 of them.

Projects/talks (24%)—Students will work on semester-long projects. Students will develop a proposal in the first few weeks of the course which will be discussed with the instructor for approval. Details: 8% for the first talk, 8% for the final talk, and 8% for the written project.

General attendance/Class participation (1%)—Everyone is expected to behave well. PoCS, Vol. 1 What's the John Dory? 26 of 59

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How grading works:

Questions are worth 3 points according to the following scale:

3 = correct or very nearly so.

2 = acceptable but needs some revisions.

1 = needs major revisions.

3 0 = way off.

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Important things:

- Classes run from Monday, August 31 to Friday, December 4.
- Add/Drop, Audit, Pass/No Pass deadline—Monday, September 14.
- 3. Last day to withdraw—Thursday, October 29 (Sadness!).
- Reading and Exam period—Monday, December 7 to Friday, December 11.

Do check the course Twitter account, @pocsvox, for updates regarding the course (part of the course site).

Academic assistance: Anyone who requires assistance in any way (as per the ACCESS program or due to athletic endeavors), please see or contact me as soon as possible.

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Popular Science Books:

Historical artifact:



"Complexity: The Emerging Science at the Edge of Order and Chaos" **3** C by M. Mitchell Waldrop (1993). [16]

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Popular Science Books:

Historical artifact:



"Complexity: The Emerging Science at the Edge of Order and Chaos" **3**.
by M. Mitchell Waldrop (1993). [16]

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Shout-out: Dr. Andrew P. Morokoff , MBBS PhD FRACS D.Thau (Bug)





Popular Science Books:



"Simply Complexity: A Clear Guide to Complexity Theory" **3**. "South of the Complexity Theory" **3**. "South of



"Complexity: A Guided Tour" **3 2** by Melanie Mitchell (2009). [12]



"The Information: A History, A Theory, A Flood" **3**. by James Gleick (2011). [6]

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Books on Complexification:



"Scaling, self-similarity, and intermediate asymptotics" **3** C by G. I. Barenblatt (1996). [3]

Have to strongly disrecommend "Scale" by West. No.



"Creation of the Universe" **3** 2 by Zhi and Xian (1989). [17]

See Freeman Dyson's ☑ The Key to Everything ☑.

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On complex sociotechnical systems:



"Human Behaviour and the Principle of Least-Effort" **3**, 🗗 by G. K. Zipf (1949). [18]



"Micromotives and Macrobehavior" **3.** Thomas C. Schelling (1978). [14]





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It's all about algorithms (stories):





"On the Origin of Stories: Evolution, Cognition, and Fiction" (a) Cognition Boyd (2010). [5]



"The Storytelling Animal: How Stories Make Us Human" **3** by Jonathan Gottschall (2013). [7]



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A few textbooky books (dated):



"Complex Adaptive Systems: An introduction to computational models of social life" (a)
by Miller and Page (2007). [11]



"Critical Phenomena in Natural Sciences" **3**, **2** by Didier Sornette (2003). [15]



"Modeling Complex Systems" **3** 3 by Nino Boccara (2004). [4]

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Eventually: "Principles of Complex Systems"

Centers:

- Santa Fe Institute (SFI)
- Networks Institute at Northeastern
- Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems (NICO ☑)
- MIT Institute for Data, Systems, AND Society
- New England Complex Systems Institute (NECSI)
- Michigan's Center for the Study of Complex Systems (CSCS)
- Some Data Science groups (highly variable)
- Also: Indiana, Davis, Brandeis, University of Illinois, Duke, Warsaw, Melbourne, ...,
- Us!!!: Vermont Complex Systems Center
 ✓

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Other inputs:



Complexity Digest:

http://www.comdig.org https://twitter.com/@cxdig





Nautilus Magazine: http://nautil.us/

Aeon: http://aeon.co/

Quanta Magazine:

https://www.quantamagazine.org/

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Transitional from standard coursework to research-focused work.

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Transitional from standard coursework to research-focused work. #alittlescary

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Transitional from standard coursework to research-focused work. #alittlescary

Major themes:

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Transitional from standard coursework to research-focused work. #alittlescary

Major themes:



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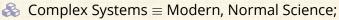




Transitional from standard coursework to research-focused work. #alittlescary

Major themes:





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Transitional from standard coursework to research-focused work. #alittlescary

Major themes:



Complex Systems
 Modern, Normal Science;

Roles and limits of Data, Theory, and Experiment;

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Transitional from standard coursework to research-focused work. #alittlescary

Major themes:



Complex Systems
 Modern, Normal Science;

Roles and limits of Data, Theory, and Experiment;

Emergence;

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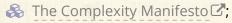
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Transitional from standard coursework to research-focused work. #alittlescary

Major themes:



Complex Systems

Modern, Normal Science;

Roles and limits of Data, Theory, and Experiment;

Emergence;

Universality and Accidents of History;

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Transitional from standard coursework to research-focused work. #alittlescary

Major themes:



Complex Systems

Modern, Normal Science;

Roles and limits of Data, Theory, and Experiment;

Emergence;

Universality and Accidents of History;

Structure and Stories: Micro-to-macro Mechanisms;

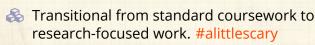
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Major themes:

- The Complexity Manifesto ☑;
- & Complex Systems \equiv Modern, Normal Science;
- Roles and limits of Data, Theory, and Experiment;
- & Emergence;
- Universality and Accidents of History;
- Structure and Stories: Micro-to-macro Mechanisms;
- Elements: Scaling, Surprise, Networks, Robustness, Failure, and Spreading.

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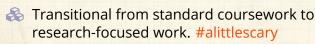
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Major themes:

- The Complexity Manifesto ☑;
- & Complex Systems \equiv Modern, Normal Science;
- Roles and limits of Data, Theory, and Experiment;
- & Emergence;
- Universality and Accidents of History;
- Structure and Stories: Micro-to-macro Mechanisms;
- Elements: Scaling, Surprise, Networks, Robustness, Failure, and Spreading.
- The Theory of Anything: Why Complexify?

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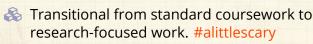
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Major themes:



& Complex Systems \equiv Modern, Normal Science;

Roles and limits of Data, Theory, and Experiment;

Emergence;

Universality and Accidents of History;

Structure and Stories: Micro-to-macro Mechanisms;

Elements: Scaling, Surprise, Networks, Robustness, Failure, and Spreading.

The Theory of Anything: Why Complexify?

It's all about stories.

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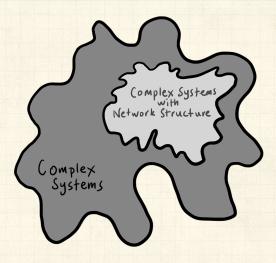
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Complex Systems are the Big Story:



Only a bit networky: Fluids-at-large (the atmosphere, oceans, ...), organism cells, ...

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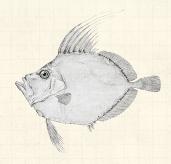
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Course mascot:





What's the Story?

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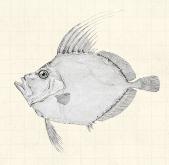
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Course mascot:



What's the Story?

What's the John Dory?

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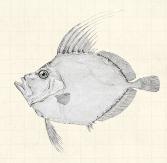
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What's the Story?

What's the John Dory?

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Course mascot:



- What's the Story?
- What's the John Dory?
- What's the John Dory for Rhyming Slang ☑?
- \clubsuit Hemiteleia: beers ⇒ Edward Lears ⇒ Edwards.

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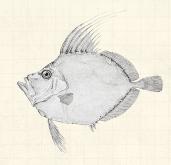
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- \clubsuit Hemiteleia: beers ⇒ Edward Lears ⇒ Edwards.
- Also: Taxis ⇒ Boris Spasskies ⇒ Borises

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Scaling phenomena:

- Allometry.
- Scaling of social phenomena: crime, creativity, and consumption.
- Scaling in biology (elephants and platypuses).
- 🙈 Dimensional Analysis and Renormalization.
- Power law size distributions and non-Gaussian statistics.
- The 80/20 rule, the 1%.
- Zipf's law.
- Order from randomness.
- Fundamental mechanisms for generating power law size distributions.
- The rich-get-richer mechanism.

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Robustness—Integrity of complex systems:

- Generic failure mechanisms.
- Highly Optimized Tolerance (HOT): Robustness and fragility.
- How to build optimal forests.
- Minimization of risk as a driver of heterogeneous structures in complex systems.
- How to optimally locate facilities: hospitals, schools, and coffee shops.

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Robustness—Integrity of complex systems:

- Generic failure mechanisms.
- Highly Optimized Tolerance (HOT): Robustness and fragility.
- How to build optimal forests.
- Minimization of risk as a driver of heterogeneous structures in complex systems.
- How to optimally locate facilities: hospitals, schools, and coffee shops.

Fundamentals of Complexity:

- Emergence: More is Different.
- Measurement and mismeasurement.
- Universality versus path dependence.
- \Leftrightarrow Complexification (it all starts with gravity [17]).

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Complex networks:

- Statistical Mechanics
- Structure and Dynamics
- Phase transitions
- Random Networks
- Scale-free Networks
- Small-world Networks
- Why your friends are better than you.
- More in PoCS, Vol. 2 in the spring.

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Sociotechnical Systems:

- Biological and social spreading models
- Schelling's model of segregation [13]
- & Granovetter's model of imitation [8]
- Collective behavior and synchrony
- Global cooperation from bad actors
- Global conflicts from good actors
- Stories (Homo Narrativus)
- The Sociotechnocene

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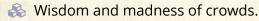
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Collective decision making:



Systems of voting.

The role of randomness and chance.

Success inequality.

The paradox of unpredictable global fame.

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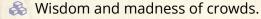
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Collective decision making:



Systems of voting.

The role of randomness and chance.

Success inequality.

The paradox of unpredictable global fame.

🙈 Bonus knowledge: How to make things spread.

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Collective decision making:

- Wisdom and madness of crowds.
- Systems of voting.
- The role of randomness and chance.
- Success inequality.
- The paradox of unpredictable global fame.
- Bonus knowledge: How to make things spread.
- Bonus knowledge: Fate does not exist in a world of fame

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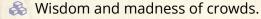
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Collective decision making:



Systems of voting.

The role of randomness and chance.

Success inequality.

The paradox of unpredictable global fame.

Bonus knowledge: How to make things spread.

Bonus knowledge: Fate does not exist in a world of fame.

Large-scale social patterns (maybe):

Movement

Cities

Happiness

Social media

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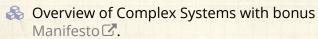
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Overview of Complex Systems with bonus Manifesto 7.

Thread of Understanding Sociotechnical Systems.

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Overview of Complex Systems with bonus Manifesto ☑.

Thread of Understanding Sociotechnical Systems.

Allometric scaling in complex systems.

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Overview of Complex Systems with bonus Manifesto ☑.

Thread of Understanding Sociotechnical Systems.

Allometric scaling in complex systems.

Size distributions of system elements:

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Overview of Complex Systems with bonus Manifesto ☑.

Thread of Understanding Sociotechnical Systems.

Allometric scaling in complex systems.

Size distributions of system elements:

Power-law size distributions.

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- Overview of Complex Systems with bonus Manifesto ☑.
- Thread of Understanding Sociotechnical Systems.
- Allometric scaling in complex systems.
- Size distributions of system elements:
 - Power-law size distributions.
 - Description and Mechanisms of Becoming.

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Project



- Overview of Complex Systems with bonus Manifesto ☑.
- Thread of Understanding Sociotechnical Systems.
- Allometric scaling in complex systems.
- Size distributions of system elements:
 - Power-law size distributions.
 - Description and Mechanisms of Becoming.
- Robustness of Complex Systems.

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Project



- Overview of Complex Systems with bonus Manifesto .
- Thread of Understanding Sociotechnical Systems.
- Allometric scaling in complex systems.
- Size distributions of system elements:
 - Power-law size distributions.
 - Description and Mechanisms of Becoming.
- Robustness of Complex Systems.
- Complex networks—how system elements are connected:

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- Overview of Complex Systems with bonus Manifesto ☑.
- Thread of Understanding Sociotechnical Systems.
- Allometric scaling in complex systems.
- Size distributions of system elements:
 - Power-law size distributions.
 - Description and Mechanisms of Becoming.
- Robustness of Complex Systems.
- Complex networks—how system elements are connected:
 - Structure, Growth Mechanisms, Processes on Networks.

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- Overview of Complex Systems with bonus Manifesto ☑.
- Thread of Understanding Sociotechnical Systems.
- Allometric scaling in complex systems.
- Size distributions of system elements:
 - Power-law size distributions.
 - Description and Mechanisms of Becoming.
- Robustness of Complex Systems.
- Complex networks—how system elements are connected:
 - Structure, Growth Mechanisms, Processes on Networks.
- 🙈 Social Contagion, Voting, Fame and Fate, Stories.

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- Overview of Complex Systems with bonus Manifesto ☑.
- Thread of Understanding Sociotechnical Systems.
- Allometric scaling in complex systems.
- Size distributions of system elements:
 - Power-law size distributions.
 - Description and Mechanisms of Becoming.
- Robustness of Complex Systems.
- Complex networks—how system elements are connected:
 - Structure, Growth Mechanisms, Processes on Networks.
- Social Contagion, Voting, Fame and Fate, Stories.
- Complexification: The Theory of Anything and the Rise of Algorithms

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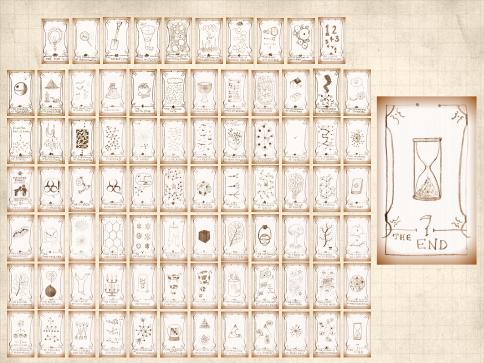
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Semester-long projects, teams.

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Semester-long projects, teams.



Develop proposal in first few weeks.

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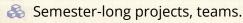
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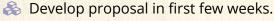
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May range from novel research to investigation of an established area of complex systems. PoCS, Vol. 1 What's the John Dory? 52 of 59

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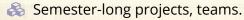
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Tarot Cards Projects





Develop proposal in first few weeks.

May range from novel research to investigation of an established area of complex systems.

Two talks + written piece.

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- Semester-long projects, teams.
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Projects References



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- & We'll go through a list of possible projects soon.

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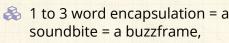
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Narrative Arc Tarot Cards Projects



The narrative hierarchy—Stories and Storytelling on all Scales:





- 1 sentence, title,
- few sentences, a haiku,
- a paragraph, abstract,
- short paper, essay,
- long paper,
- 🚓 chapter,
- 备 book,



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